

**Survey of SocMon-Related Sites
(Sites Conducting Socioeconomic Monitoring related to the Global
Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative)**

**DRAFT RESULTS FOR
SURIN ISLANDS MARINE NATIONAL PARK, THAILAND**

- 1. Your name and e-mail address:** Narumon Arunotai, narumon.h@chula.ac.th
- 2. Title of the socioeconomic monitoring or assessment:** A Place for Indigenous People Living in Thailand's Andaman Sea Marine Protected Areas
- 3. Location:** Surin Islands Marine National Park, Thailand
- 4. The general objectives of why you did the socioeconomic monitoring:**
 - Assess management effectiveness/ community benefits and impacts of management strategies
 - Facilitate stakeholder participation
 - Establish baseline of socioeconomic information
- 5. Topics addressed in your socioeconomic monitoring:**
 - Marine protected areas
 - Resource use conflicts
 - Economic valuation (market or non-market)
 - Stakeholder participation in management
 - Tourism issues
 - Traditional uses
 - Local perceptions of management
- 6. Management question(s) you were addressing:**

The socio-economic monitoring program was established as a tool to collect systematic information on the Moken community to understand their socio-economic status, to monitor overall impacts of management on livelihoods and to provide key information to Park Management Authorities.
- 7. Socioeconomic indicators you assessed:**
 - Community demographics
 - Main occupations in the community
 - Household income
 - Community infrastructure
 - Coastal and marine activities
 - Governance and management
 - Informal tenure and rules
 - Customs and traditions
 - Community organization
 - Attitude and perception about local natural resources
 - Perceived threats
- 8. Methods you used (e.g. household interviews, key informant interviews, etc):**
 - Field survey
 - Household interviews

Key informant interviews

9. Total cost of the study (optional): 9,000 USD/15 months

10. Time it took to conduct: 3-4 months

11. Number of people on the study team: 2 (one consultant and one research assistant)

12. How the coastal managers and other stakeholders were engaged in planning, implementation and reporting results:

Indigenous people and the park officials were directly involved by being household informants and key informants. They provided the data on the social and economic condition and the resources use on the islands.

13. *The most important results, particularly unexpected findings:

Data collection and analysis has not yet been completed at this stage. However, preliminary result can be summarized as follow:

National Park Authority : The Park's mandate is forest and marine conservation including keeping laws and regulations pertaining to conservation. Presently, the main focus of the National Park Authority during the opening season (November to May) is on tourism management. This is due to the national and local policy favoring tourism promotion and income earning activities. Thus, less priority is given to research, conservation, and interpretive activities. This may prove to be detrimental to the Park conservation effort in the long run. During the closing season of 2004, work is focused on the maintenance of cabins and other infrastructure. There is a plan to expand campground area and to rebuild the old cafeteria.

The Moken : The Moken are an ethnic group of sea nomads who have now adopted sedentary life and subsist on the Surin Islands. During the Park closing season (June to October), the Moken make a living from marine and forest resources. During the opening season, the Moken become more dependent on the Park because the Park hire them as temporary workers. Moken workers are paid 100 baht (about 2.5 US\$) and fed 2 meals per day. The relationship between the Park and the Moken is on hirer-worker basis, and there is still a lack of understanding and appreciation of Moken culture among the Park staff. It is not surprising that although the Park has been established for 23 years, the Moken who are the indigenous people in the area do not have a clear idea about Park's mission and goal.

Fisheries Unit : The Fisheries Unit's mandate is protect marine fisheries resource and keep laws and regulations pertaining to fisheries resources protection. Due to the lack of competent staff and necessary equipment, the Fisheries Unit does not have distinguished role in marine conservation around the Surin Islands. However, the most important achievement was the establishment of Suraswadee elementary school for Moken children in . At present, there is one teacher who has to take care of 30 children in 3 different levels.

Tour operators : The number of tour operators involved in the Surin Islands has been on the increase. Several tour guides do not have appropriate training in marine tourism and are not aware of negative effect that they and their tourist customers could cause to

marine resources and Moken culture. There are at least 2 tour operators who are environmentally and culturally conscious. A joint effort may be made between this project and the two operators to develop training and capacity building program for the Moken and the marine tour guides in the future.

14. * How the socioeconomic information has been used to improve coastal management. Please be specific. This information is particularly important because it will be used to demonstrate to potential users and donor organizations the benefits of conduct socioeconomic monitoring.

The result of the study will provide up-to-date socio-economic data of the Surin Islands and insights into the way of life of the local people and their relationship with the natural resources. This will help the decision makers/planners and the park managers to identify opportunities and difficulties in management of natural resources and able to create programs that are culturally appropriate and provide greatest potential to conserve the reefs and other resources in the islands.

15. Lead contact for further information (name, role in the socioeconomic monitoring, organization, contact e-mail & phone):

Narumon Arunotai, Researcher, Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute,
narumon.h@chulal.ac.th

16. Website for the project and/or socioeconomic study:

<http://www.unescobkk.org/science/projectsurin.html>

<http://www.cusri.chula.ac.th/andaman/>

* = most important questions to answer